Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel Qualitative
Real-time PCR

Central nervous system (CNS) infections can cause inflammation of the brain and the meningeal tissue surrounding the brain, with approximately 15% of cases being fatal. Even in nonfatal cases, the infection can result in visual and hearing deficits, seizures, and altered learning or memory. Rapid detection of the most common causative agents of CNS infection is important for a number of reasons, including the possibility of limiting the length of hospital stays when a non-life-threatening infection or no infection is found. Unnecessary use of toxic antibiotic or antiviral medications may also be limited with rapid determination of the causative agent (or lack thereof) in a suspected case of meningitis or encephalitis. The FDA-approved BioFire FilmArray Meningitis/Encephalitis (M/E) panel is a qualitative, multiplexed, real-time PCR assay. It is capable of simultaneous detection of multiple pathogens directly from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). The M/E Panel identifies the organisms listed to the right. Only *Escherichia coli* strains possessing the K1 capsular antigen will be detected; all other *E. coli* strains and serotypes will not be detected. Only encapsulated strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* will be detected; unencapsulated strains will not be detected\(^2\). For more information, call the lab at 513-636-9820.

**Organisms Detected:**

**Bacteria:**
- *Escherichia coli* K1
- *Haemophilus influenzae*
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Neisseria meningitidis*
- *Streptococcus agalactiae*
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

**Viruses:**
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Enterovirus
- Herpes Simplex Virus 1 (HSV-1)
- Herpes Simplex Virus 2 (HSV-2)
- Human Herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6)
- Human Parechovirus
- Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV)

**Yeast:**
- *Cryptococcus gattii/neoforans*

**CPT Code:**
See component codes.

**Clinical Lab Index:**
https://www.testmenu.com/cincinnatichildrens/tests/693135

**Contact Information:**
Cincinnati Children’s Division of Pathology
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**References:**